

Application serial No. 10/720,067
Examiner: Krishnan S Menon
Art Unit: 1723

JUN 19 2006

Applicant: Chikaroku Yamashita

bottom of the micro filter device coming in contact with the tilted surface of the micro filter device may provide a better circulation of the high concentration wastewater on the inflow side so that at least blockage of the filter device may be effectively reduced.

Applicant respectfully submits that the newly added proposed claim 8 is allowable over Ishida because Ishida substantially fails to teach or disclose each and every features of the claimed invention. More specifically, Ishida substantially fails to teach or disclose a filter system for treating high concentration wastewater comprising at least [a micro filter device, disposed on said filter device such that a surface of said micro filter device is tilted at an angle relative to a surface of said filter device, wherein said tilted surface of said micro filter device faces a wastewater inflow side; and a drain pipe, connected to a gas supply device, disposed at a bottom side of said micro filter device on the wastewater inflow side, for injecting a gas along said tilted surface of said micro filter device] as required by the newly added proposed independent claim 8.

Instead, Ishida substantially discloses a solid-liquid separator (31) for sludge or the like comprising: a treating tank (32); means disposed in the treating tank for establishing a horizontal flow therein; and a plurality of stages of submerged filter systems (35) arranged in the treating tank sequentially in the direction of the horizontal flow. This horizontal flow is used sequentially in the submerged filter systems so that the power to be consumed for establishing a scavenging flow can be reduced (please see the abstract and the entire disclosure of Ishida). However, Ishida substantially fails to teach or disclose any micro filter device disposed on the submerged filter system (35). Therefore, it is clearly evident that Ishida substantially fails to even mention any micro filter device disposed on the submerged filter system (35). Thus, Applicant respectfully

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submits that Ishida at least lacks a micro filter device of the claimed invention as claimed in the newly added proposed independent claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Ishida cannot possibly anticipate the newly added proposed independent claim 8 in this regard.

Claims 9-12, which directly or indirectly depend from the proposed independent claim 8, are also patentable over Ishida for at least their dependency from an allowable base claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-12 patently define over Ishida and therefore should be allowed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

3. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cote et al. (US-5,607,593, hereinafter Cote).

Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the above rejections as set forth below.

The present invention is generally directed to a filter system for treating high concentration wastewater. The proposed independent claim 8, among other things, recites at least [a micro filter device, disposed on said filter device such that a surface of said micro filter device is tilted at an angle relative to a surface of said filter device, wherein said tilted surface of said micro filter device faces a wastewater inflow side; and a drain pipe, connected to a gas supply device, disposed at a bottom side of said micro filter device on the wastewater inflow side, for injecting a gas along said tilted surface of said micro filter device]. The advantage of the above feature is that the gas ejected from the drain pipe disposed at the

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bottom of the micro filter device coming in contact with the tilted surface of the micro filter device may provide a better circulation of the high concentration wastewater on the inflow side so that at least blockage of the filter device may be effectively reduced.

Applicant respectfully submits that the newly added proposed claim 8 is allowable over Cote because Cote substantially fails to teach or disclose each and every features of the claimed invention. More specifically, Cote substantially fails to teach or disclose a filter system for treating high concentration wastewater comprising at least [a micro filter device, disposed on said filter device such that a surface of said micro filter device is tilted at an angle relative to a surface of said filter device, wherein said tilted surface of said micro filter device faces a wastewater inflow side; and a drain pipe, connected to a gas supply device, disposed at a bottom side of said micro filter device on the wastewater inflow side, for injecting a gas along said tilted surface of said micro filter device] as required by the newly added proposed independent claim 8.

Instead, Cote substantially discloses a water-treatment installation including a reactor demarcating at least one treatment chamber, the reactor (1) comprising a conveying assembly to convey the water to be treated into the chamber; a removing assembly for removing the floated pollutants and a removing assembly for removing the decanted pollutants; a plurality of filtration membranes (3) laid out within the chamber and submerged in the water to be treated; a demarcating assembly for demarcating a filtration zone around each of the membranes; carrying and circulating member guiding a current of water to be treated in the filtration zone along a preferred direction, the carrying and circulating member including ozone-injection assembly; and a recovering assembly recovering the permeate at an outlet of the filtration membranes (3) (please see

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the abstract and the entire disclosure). More particularly, Cote substantially teaches or discloses, at FIG. 5 and 6A, that a sheath 5a that surrounds membrane 3, wherein the surface of the sheath 5a is substantially parallel to that of the membrane 3. Thus, it is clearly evident that Cote fails to teach or disclose a micro filter device disposed on said filter device (membrane 3) such that a surface of said micro filter device is tilted at an angle relative to a surface of said filter device (membrane 3), instead Cote substantially teaches or discloses that a sheath 5a is disposed on the membrane 3 which is in contact and parallel to a surface of the membrane 3. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Cote lacks at least a micro filter device disposed on said filter device (membrane 3) such that a surface of said micro filter device is tilted at an angle relative to a surface of said filter device (membrane 3) of the claimed invention as claimed in the newly added proposed independent claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Cote cannot possibly anticipate the newly added proposed independent claim 8 in this regard.

Claims 9-12, which directly or indirectly depend from the proposed independent claim 8, are also patentable over Cote for at least their dependency from an allowable base claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-12 patently define over Cote and therefore should be allowed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 8-12 of the present application are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted

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